

P R E S S   R E L E A S E  
U N I T**For Immediate Release**

Media Contact: Maria Abad, 202-683-3173

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**EQUATORIAL GUINEA SENTENCES OFFICIALS FOR CORRUPTION**  
*Government Seeking to Promote Greater Transparency and Reduce Corruption*

**MALABO** (August 18, 2010) — The Republic of Equatorial Guinea (Republica de Guinea Ecuatorial) has sentenced five government officials from the Ministry of Finance and Budget for their involvement in a corruption scheme. The officials had been convicted on charges of embezzlement, forgery of official documents and misappropriation of funds. These judicial sentences are part of Equatorial Guinea's ongoing anti-corruption and governmental transparency initiative.

Sentences were pronounced by the Court of Appeal of the Insular Region against former Finance Ministry officials on charges of embezzlement, forgery of official documents and misappropriation.

The former officials had been accused by the Ministry of Finance and Budget of acting in complicity with employees of the bank Societe Generale Banks in Equatorial Guinea (SGBGE). The panel of the Court of Appeal consisted of the President of the Court of Appeal Bioco, Antonio Pascual Oko, Magistrate Adelaida Casaña; Judge Antonio Ntutumu Afana and Secretary Metodio Esono Angong Andeme.

To promote greater judicial transparency, relatives and friends of the accused, as well as members of the media and the general public were present at the Palace of Justice for the pronouncement of sentencing.

The Court convicted Ernesto Abeso Oñana and Adolfo Mba Ela for the crime of forgery of stamps. Each defendant was sentenced to two years and one day of imprisonment in a medium-security prison and fined one million Central African Francs (XAF).

Ernesto Abeso Oñana, Adolfo Mba Ela, Martin Nseng Monsuy, Ángel Salvador Elo Micue and Astrina Micue Ndongo have been convicted of falsification of public documents and official trade. They have been sentenced to two years and one day to imprisonment in a medium-security facility and fined 2 million XAF.

Ernesto Abeso Oñana, Adolfo Mba Ela, Martin Nseng Monsuy, Ángel Salvador Elo Micue were convicted of embezzlement. They have been sentenced to a term of 17 years, four months and one day of imprisonment in a maximum-security facility.

Juan Nguema Ondo, Astrina Micue Ndong, Agustín Ndong Ndong Bibang, Sunday Oyecunle Ladele and Benjamín Obama Obono have been convicted of misappropriation and sentenced to 12 years imprisonment in a maximum-security facility.

Yolanda Ncono Oñana and Antonio Eko Owono Nchama were convicted as accessories and sentenced to one year and six months imprisonment in a minimum-security facility.

The convicted perpetrators are also required to make restitution in the amount of 258,518,748 XAF.

The following 11 defendants were acquitted of all charges and released:

- Virgilio Ela Motu
- Eugenia Evuna
- Manuel Ndong
- Alain Kain
- Jacinto Nzo Ona
- Martin Mambo Umaru
- Amadco Akono Mba
- Timothy Micha Nze
- Miguel Esono Micha
- Pedro Micho Ondo
- Jose Antonio Ipo Bokoko

#### *About Equatorial Guinea*

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial) is the only Spanish-speaking country in Africa, and one of the smallest nations on the continent. In the late-1990s, American companies helped discover the country's oil and natural gas resources, which only within the last five years began contributing to the global energy supply. Equatorial Guinea is now working to serve as a pillar of stability and security in its region of West Central Africa. The country will host the 2011 Summit of the African Union. For more information, visit <http://www.guineaccuatorialpress.com>.

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REL/CEB/TELE  
UNIT

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## EQUATORIAL GUINEA COMPLETES GOVERNMENT ANTI-CORRUPTION TRIAL

**MALABO** (August 18, 2010) – The African news service News 24 today reported that a court in Equatorial Guinea has sentenced 11 people up to 21 years in prison for the embezzlement of almost €4 million worth of public funds.

News 24 reported that defendants in the anti-corruption trial included a Member of the Parliament of Equatorial Guinea, as well employees of the Sociedad General de Banco en Guinea Ecuatorial (SGBGE) bank and the Finance Ministry of Equatorial Guinea.

News 24 reports that the verdicts brought an end to the first anti-corruption trial of its size in Equatorial Guinea.

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For Immediate Release

INVESTIGATIVE  
UNIT

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**EQUATORIAL GUINEA GUEST OF HONOR DURING NATIONAL DAY AT SHANGHAI EXPO 2010**

**MALABO** (August 18, 2010) – Equatorial Guinea's (República de Guinea Ecuatorial) President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo celebrated the National Day of Equatorial Guinea in Shanghai, China at the Shanghai Expo 2010, his second stop of his official visit to Asia. Chinese and Equatorial Guinean government officials gathered to celebrate the excellent relations that exist between the two countries and the development that Equatorial Guinea is experiencing.

The celebration began with remarks by the Director of the Chinese General Customs Administration, Sheng Guangzu, in which he reiterated the prosperous relationship that exists between both countries. President Obiang congratulated the Chinese authorities for the invitation to the event and for their steadfast support of his country.

President Obiang also explained that the exchange of experience with countries like China, particularly in the area of technological development, is important and beneficial to his country.

Visitors toured Equatorial Guinea's national pavilion at the Expo, which featured the concept of "sustainable beauty of the city" as a central theme of the country's development plans and efforts in three parts: seaside scenery, energy exploitation and utilization, and urban future. It included visuals of Bioko Island, Pico Basile, and examples of Spanish architecture and Guinean culture.

Equatorial Guinea's government is working to foster urban development and ecological sustainability. As part of the Horizon 2020 plan set forth by President Obiang, hefty investments are being made in all areas, including infrastructure development, social services, and environmental protection.

After passing through the Shanghai Expo, President Obiang visited the city of Beijing, where he met with his Chinese counterpart, Hu Jintao, and held several meetings with businessmen in the country.

The President also expressed his condolences for the recent disaster in the province of Gansu, where flooding has caused landslides and mudslides that have caused numerous deaths.

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